

How will you handle varnish today *and* tomorrow?

Two ways to plan for your operation's lubrication needs

Use these key questions to flag any issues of concern so that you can begin to identify how a lubricant supplier can help you with your chosen path for varnish removal and new oil change.

Removing varnish with a quick oil change

These are common areas of concern for plants that are hoping to keep their current equipment running for a few more years and looking at a quick oil change-out to get things up and running again as quickly as possible.

1 How much time is required to set up, flush and recharge with fresh oil?

Flushing service providers will frequently bid on a job by promoting fast flushes at a reduced price. These flushes will likely remove contamination and soft varnish but will not remove all of it.

2 Which safety training and procedures are being followed when work is being done on your property?

Your lubricant supplier spends a lot of time on location with your team. Their personnel-related and environmental safety procedures are important to how effectively and reliably they're able to help you with challenges.

3 Does your used oil analysis program include training, interpretation and troubleshooting?

A robust used oil analysis program is key to maintaining ongoing performance. It allows you to monitor the system to take corrective action. If your supplier can lend you their expertise to help you interpret results, they can also help identify other corrective actions needed to keep things operating.

4 Are your deliveries on-time and full from the supply location?

Scheduling timing for deliveries across long distances can be challenging and potentially lead to demurrage and other expenses if not executed properly. Make sure that gaps in this process are not causing other problems in your operation's timelines. Also, check that specific logistical items aren't causing issues, such as whether the supplier has hosing that's sufficient enough to reach your system each time they arrive.



Removing varnish completely with a new oil charge for long-term performance

These are common areas of concern for plants that require a more advanced system cleaning and a higher-quality product that better resists varnish formation to keep units operational for at least 5 years.

1 Are you taking advantage of oil flushing and system cleaning services that are customized to your operating systems and varnish type?

Flushing is important to remove contamination and some varnish from the system. Your supplier should be able to help you determine the optimum cleaning procedure for your system. If they do not, you will need to find a supplier who will carry out these procedures.

3 Are your current supplier's varnish mitigation *products* ideally compatible with your new oil charge?

It's important to also ensure that there are no residual chemical cleaning products prior to the fresh charge of oil. If they're not compatible, you run the risk of shortened turbine oil life, unstable operating conditions and potentially equipment failure.

2 Are your current supplier's varnish mitigation *procedures* ideally compatible with your equipment?

Certain chemical cleaning procedures leave behind enough contaminants to take the fresh charge of oil out of specification. Some cleaning products and procedures can also damage system components. Check your supplier's procedure for flushing and filtering contaminants and make sure they check flushes against target cleanliness levels.

4 How is your oil certified when it's delivered?

Not only are OEM performance specifications important to meet, but the ISO cleanliness level recommendations (or requirements) are equally important to guarantee a trouble-free operation. If each oil delivery you receive comes with a certificate of analysis to confirm the quality and cleanliness of the oil, double-check it to see what's included and make sure you're receiving the information you need.

Ready to move the conversation forward?

[Get proactive about varnish problems](#)